

Natural Differences Exist in the Invertebrate Community Structure Across NJ

Aquatic invertebrate communities in southern NJ are distinctly different from those in the north because of natural differences in environmental and physical conditions (table 2). This is why the NAWQA urban gradient study focused it's efforts and resources in northern NJ.

Table 2. Differences in aquatic-invertebrate communities in 43 reference streams between northern and southern New Jersey can be explained by natural differences in environmental conditions

	Northern NJ	Southern NJ
Most abundant aquatic invertebrates	Mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and riffle beetles	Worms, clams, midges, black flies, caddisflies, and stoneflies
Environmental characteristics	Steeper channels and higher diss. O2 content	Low pH and low dissolved solids and nutrient content
Streambed characteristics	Mainly rock and cobble	Mainly sand and other fine sediments

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